



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 27 July 1968



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1. South Vietnam

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Prime Minister Huong may be planning major governmental and military changes which would further the eclipse of Ky and his supporters.

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A special assistant to Thieu says that Huong wants to appoint Interior Minister Khiem to head both the Defense Ministry and the Joint General Staff.

Khiem is anathema to Ky. The Vice President and his military supporters would almost certainly react badly to Khiem's assumption of top military posts, and to any meddling in military matters by the civilian prime minister. Their ability to do much about it is questionable.

2. North Vietnam

[redacted] the departure of the three US pilots has again been delayed for a week.

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3. Thailand

The raid on the US airbase at Udorn last night--evidently by Communist terrorists--seems to have been an isolated incident. Late reports say that several aircraft were damaged and that six US servicemen were wounded. At least two of the terrorists were killed. This is the first such attack against a US military installation in Thailand.

4. Czechoslovakia

Dubcek has made another halfway response to Soviet demands. By approving the establishment of advisory councils for radio and television he has not actually reimposed censorship, but he has given a nod in the direction of the Soviet demand for tighter control over the news media.

The time and place of the meeting with the Soviets still seems to be under negotiations. Key figures on both sides were publicly identified in their home capitals yesterday.

There are no significant changes in the status of Soviet forces in and around Czechoslovakia.

5. France

Paris seems to be trying to improve the atmosphere with Washington. De Gaulle and some of his ministers, for instance, have been making positive statements to US officials about Franco-American relations. They have also stopped criticizing US policies in public. Our military attaches have been encouraged by signs of increased friendliness; the French are also cooperating much more closely about security matters for the Paris talks.


We doubt that France wants a genuine rapprochement at this point, but these small steps to improve the climate may point to longer range policy adjustments.

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7. Guatemala

Communist terrorists in Guatemala are planning another wave of bombings, shootings and kidnappings--this time in hopes of disrupting local elections next month. 

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